

# Sacred Heart Parish



**Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath  
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria  
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley**

**As a community bonded together through faith,  
we are called to share our experience of God with those we meet each day,  
in particular, those in our local community.**

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land  
and pay our respects to the elders past and present.*

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Fr. John McSweeney (Parish Priest)**

**Fr. Peter Lamont (Asst Priest)**

**Postal Address:** PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW

**2785. 165 Wentworth Blackheath**

**Phone:** (02) 4787 8540

**Office Hours:** 10pm-3pm Thursday

**After Hours Emergency Number: 0490 814 284.**

*Calls only; no texts please.*

For all Office matters, call (02) 4787 8540

**Parish email address:**

[blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Parish website:**

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblackheath.org.au)

**Parish Facebook:** [Sacred Heart Parish](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

[Community Blackheath](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

## **MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS**

**Vigil Mass at 5.00pm (June-August)**

**6.00pm (Sept-May)**

## **MEGALONG VALLEY MASS**

**4pm (every third Friday of the month).**

**Next Mass: 15 March 2024 at 4.00pm**

## **BLACKHEATH MASSES**

**SUN: 9.30am.**

**WED: 9.00am**

## **UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH SUNDAY MASSES**

**SAT: 5:00pm Leura (Vigil)**

**SUN: 8:00am Wentworth Falls**

**SUN: 10.00am Katoomba**

**Sun: 5.00pm Leura**

**BULLETIN ITEMS:** Please contact the Parish

Office on Thursday's during office hours on  
4787 8540 or email

[blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

[bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

**SACRED HEART CARE GROUP:** Helping  
parishioners in times of need. Monica Bright  
0420 937 690.

**BLACKHEATH VINNIES Support:** 0490 709 547

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** If you would like  
an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to  
either Graham Beal

[graham\\_beal@hotmail.com](mailto:graham_beal@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe

[julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Year B- 18 February 2024**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This is the first Sunday of Lent. A time of change, a time of renewal, a time of escaping the brokenness and disorder of this world like Noah. Waters in the Old Testament represent disorder. We need to take shelter in Christ, in the Church and survive the flood.

In the Gospel we hear how the Spirit drove Christ out into the wilderness where he faced Satan and the dangers of the wild. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the disorder of the world, into His humanity so that He as a man would have to contend with all the temptations and difficulties of being human. Christ lived His humanity with all it's weakness, suffering and difficulties all through His life, right up to and including His torture and death.

Christ assumed our humanity, He sunk into it to heal it. He healed it because though tempted and tormented physically, emotionally, and spiritually throughout His life, He did not give in, but submitted Himself entirely to the Father's will. This is how he brought humanity into unity with divinity.

We need unite to His divinity by becoming like Him in His humanity in submitting to the Father's will. But to do this we need allow the Spirit to drive us into our wilderness, the disorder of our lives.

We need to look at ourselves to find out what our attachments, our fears, our weaknesses and our anxieties are. Anything that we cling to or give into, that prevents us from letting go and being open to others and ultimately to Christ.

We need to sink into our world to see what demons trouble us so we can identify them and say to Christ, I trust you, I put all this before you, you take care of it. We need to make Christ the ruler of our lives, but to this we need to identify all the other rulers, or gods, and disempower them. This is how we take refuge in Christ.

This why we need fasting and abstinence, saying no to ourselves and realising there are more important things in our lives besides our wants. Prayer, if we want to know Christ, if we want His help, we need to talk to Him. We need to think about Him. How much time a day do we spend in prayer and contemplation. Charity, that is concern for others, how compassionate are we? How much of our own security and comfort would we give up for the other. This is how we die to ourselves to rise in Christ. How we make our Baptism real.

This is how we become one with Christ in His body the Church and survive the flood that is drowning our world, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Only through Christ can we heal ourselves and make healing connections to this world. Let's pray and think and deny ourselves this Lent to truly enthrone Christ ruler of our lives, stand with Him on Good Friday and rise freed in Him on Easter Sunday.

Deacon Alan.

**Please mute your mobile at Mass.**

**Thank-you for your courtesy.**



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

**SATURDAY 17 February**

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 18 February**

9.30 am Blackheath

**MONDAY 19 February**

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 20 February**

Mass 9.00am Leura

Confession after mass

**WEDNESDAY 21 February**

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

**THURSDAY 22 February**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 23 February**

Mass 12pm Katoomba

**SATURDAY 24 February**

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00 pm Mt Victoria.

### LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS

Commencing Wednesday 21/2. There are two groups. Afternoon 2.00pm and Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please contact Barbara for more information on 0417 490 103.

**Mt Victoria 17.02.2024**

**1 St Reader:** Peter McAuley

**on 2 nd Reader:** Carla Eden

**Sunday 18.02.2024**

**1 St Reader:** Monica Bright

**2nd Reader:** Brian Bright

**Welcome/Intercession:** John Tweedie

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Church Care:** Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

**Counters:** Diane Stewart

**Flowers:** Julie Hodgkinson

**Morning Tea:** Pamela Nash/ Kristan

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

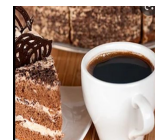
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH>.

As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR



### Cuppa's on Wednesday after 9am Mass

Pop into the hall for a cuppa and company on Wednesday morning's from 9:30am- 12:00. Vinnie's assistance is available during this time, operating from the meeting room and our Community Kitchen garden offers plants from the Plant Library, fresh produce and a time for connecting with our life-giving Earth. Join us in our growing buzzy hub on Wednesday's.



**VIRTUAL LENT SERIES 2024:** A series of online Lent talks by four Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Lenten journey.

### EVENT DETAILS

**WHEN:** Mondays – Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 4, 11, 18

**TIME:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT

**WHERE:** Via Zoom meeting

**COST:** Free

**REGISTRATION:** google "Virtual Lent Series 2024"

### JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE – FOODBANK APPEAL – LENT 2024

Our Parish, in the spirit of Lent, is once again joining the Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS) Lenten Foodbank Appeal - collecting small, but essential gifts for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Each week during the 6 weeks of Lent, we are asking parishioners to donate – these gifts will make a huge difference to the lives those JRS serves:

**Week of the 1st Sunday of Lent,** 18 Feb: Basmati rice

**Week of the 2nd Sunday of Lent,** 25 Feb: Cooking or olive oil

**Week of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, 3 March:** Dried red lentils (375g, 500g or 1kg)

**Week of the 4th Sunday of Lent,** 10 March: Dishwashing detergent

**Week of the 5th Sunday of Lent,** 17 March: Laundry detergent

**Palm Sunday, 24 March:** Long life milk

A special JRS collection bin (Pink) is over near the Sacristy,

Thank you for your support

**Sunday: 25.02.2024**

**1 St Reader:** Christa Buckley

**2 nd Reader:** David Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:** Francis Huckstepp

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Morning Tea:** Christine and Dominic

### Pietà Lenten books

Embark on a transformative Lenten journey with Pietà, an 80 page book containing short daily reflections, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Copies of Pietà are available at our weekend Masses for \$5 each. The books for Sacred Heart are in a basket near the piano- thank you to our music ministry for organising the sale of the books this year. Correct money for a copy of Pietà would be most appreciated

## PROJECT COMPASSION 2024

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Sacred Heart Parish Annual General Meeting last Sunday. Also, a particular thanks to all those who helped prepare for the meeting and to write the many ministry reports. At the AGM Paul Harris and Joe Blansjaar were appointed to the Parish Pastoral Council and they will be great additions to the PPC. We also thank Adrian Carroll who retired from the PPC since our last AGM. Adrian has tirelessly served the Parish on the PPC for many years, most recently as Secretary. Graham Beal, Chair GB

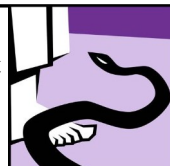
**CKG** - Answering 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor': Meeting a delegation from the US University of Notre Dame recently, Pope Francis said, 'We cannot stay within the walls or boundaries of our institutions, but must strive to go out to the peripheries and meet and serve Christ in our neighbour.' Our CKG is one of the ways our parish goes out to the peripheries to meet and serve Christ in our neighbour. This Saturday we have our composting and worm-farming workshops. On Saturday 2nd March 10am - 4pm, we have our CKG open for the Blue Mountains Edible Garden Trial (<https://www.ediblegardentrail.com/our-gardens>) Please join us on the day to meet our mountain neighbours interested in looking after our environment and our community.

**CKG** - Answering 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor': Meeting a delegation from the US University of Notre Dame recently, Pope Francis said, 'We cannot stay within the walls or boundaries of our institutions, but must strive to go out to the peripheries and meet and serve Christ in our neighbour.'

### Save the date!

Catalyst for Renewal reflection mornings commence on March 16 and continue each month on the third Saturday morning from 9:30-12:30 at Lawson. Father John is guest speaker for May 18. Len and Carol organise and facilitate these inspiring reflection mornings. The full program of dates, speakers and topics for this year is attached with the bulletin.

\*\*\*\*Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.



Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

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## Catholic Church and Mission Discussion Group.

Our discussion group unpacking Vatican's Synodal Church Synthesis Report (Oct, 2023) will meet again at 2:00 - 3:30 pm, Saturday, 24 February, 2024, at the Church Hall. At this meeting we'll be focussing on:

Section 8: Church as Mission; and

Section 9: Women in the Life and Mission of the Church.

The Synodal Church Synthesis Report can be obtained at the following address: <https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report.pdf>.

All most welcome. Hope to see you all there! For any further information please contact Clive Kanes ([c\\_kanes@yahoo.com.au](mailto:c_kanes@yahoo.com.au)).

### Happy Birthday Feb

16th Monica Bright  
23rd Janet Lamerton  
23rd Diana Landsberg



### ANNIVERSARIES: Feb

17th Peter and  
Kate Grbanac



**Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:** Beverley Bateup, Alice Lonergan, Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, John Barclay, Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli,

**REST IN PEACE February** 10th Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp's father – 2018), 15th Sarah Frazer (2012)

16th Gladys Gronlund (2015) – Carol Drummond's mother, 17th Charles Edward Hodgkinson

22nd Rick Frazer (1986) – Kate Forbes' father, 23rd William (Bill) Grieves (d 2018), 26th Rita Jenner (2017)

26th Nancy Etccl (2016) – Mt Vic resident, 27th Ken Kirkham (2017), 28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015)

25th Peter Potts (2022), Leashy Dowling (2024), Marie Josephine Geraghty (2024)





## **1st Sunday of Lent - Year B**

### **ENTRANCE**

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 9:8-15)

God spoke to Noah and his children, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

**RESPONSE** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth  
to those who keep your covenant.

### **Second Reading .**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison.

Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe.

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects

### **ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1:12-15)

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

### **COMMUNION**

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

